

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fifth Grade Eco-Trekkers Field Study



The vision of the Baltimore County Public Schools Outdoor Science program is to develop a community of environmentally literate citizens who demonstrate stewardship and an authentic passion for learning about the natural world. Two of the many ways B.C.P.S. Outdoor Science meets this vision is by promoting the use of the environment as an integrated context for learning and providing experiences that promote environmental literacy.

One of the many K-12 experiences that B.C.P.S. Outdoor Science offers is a grade 5 program titled [Eco-Trekkers](#). Since 2004, over 100,000 B.C.P.S. students have participated on the Eco-Trekkers field study at no cost to them. The Eco-Trekker Unit is a nine day classroom unit designed to be taught in conjunction with a day-long field experience during which students investigate several types of Chesapeake Bay ecosystems. During this field study, students utilize a variety of scientific and mathematical skill to extend their understanding of ecology. While on the field study, students attempt to answer the overarching question “How would you plan and design a model of a successful ecosystem?” and visit four different ecosystems found around the Chesapeake Bay: a shoreline, a wetland, a forest, and a meadow. At each of the ecosystems, students collect data including biotic and abiotic factors while answering a different essential question geared towards each ecosystem. Back in the classroom, students utilize their observations and the data they collected to create an eco-chamber which represents a thriving ecosystem.



Home page: http://www.bcps.org/offices/science/outdoor_ed/

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